CREATING A SHARE & REPAIR LIBRARY OF THINGS

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AGENDA

- The Share & Repair Concept
- Acquisition
- Cataloging & Processing
- Circulation
- Programming & Promotion
- Sourcing and Funding
- Questions?

THE SHARE & REPAIR CONCEPT

- Intersection of Library of Things and the Repair Café or Fixit Clinic movement

- DIY repair is a type of literacy and a key component of sustainability & equity

- Repair events are great, but how can we meet the need before, after and between?

- Many libraries already include some tools in their LoTs— Share & Repair is simply a focused extension of this
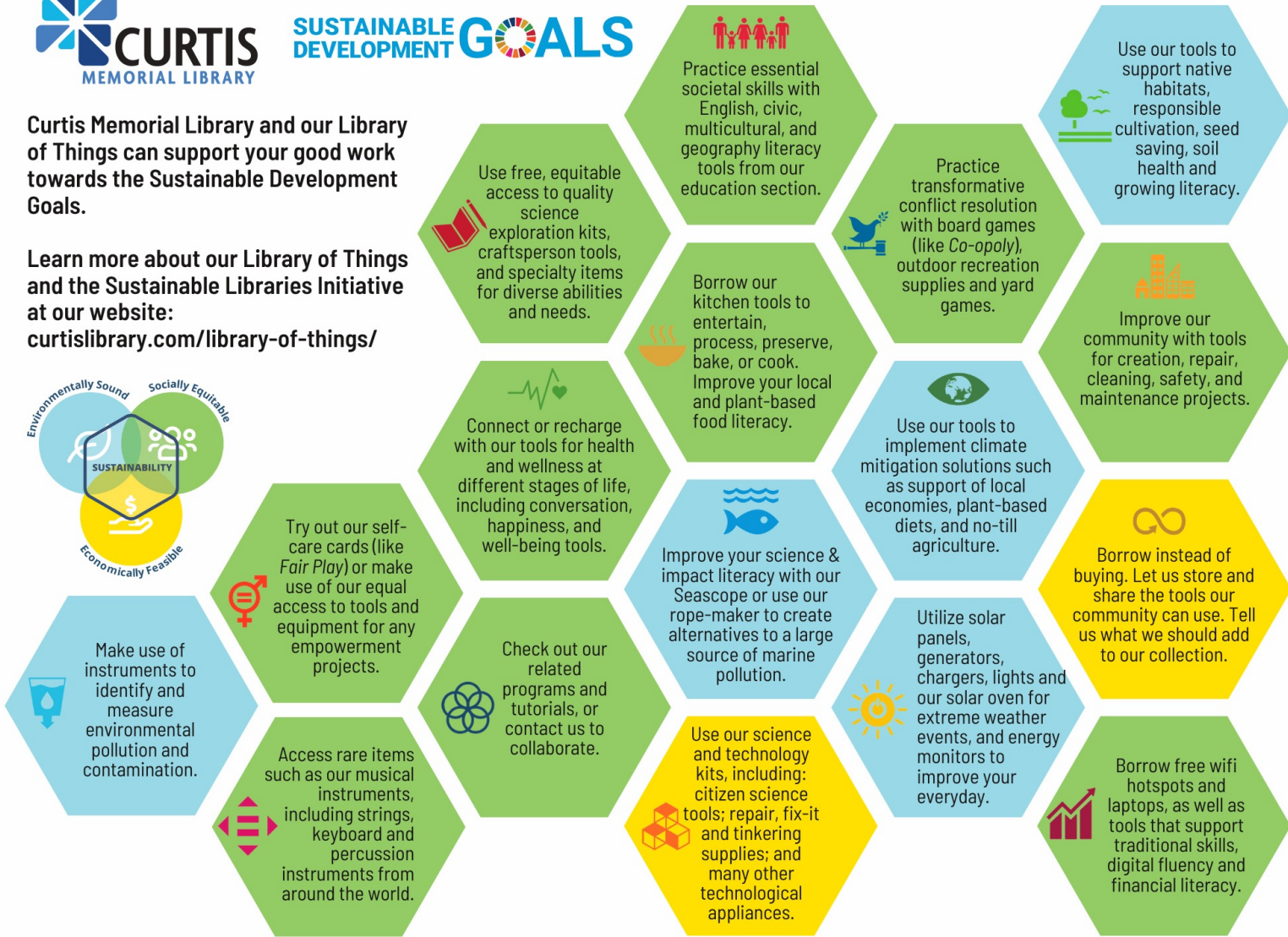
CURTIS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Curtis Memorial Library and our Library of Things can support your good work towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

Learn more about our Library of Things and the Sustainable Libraries Initiative at our website: curtislibrary.com/library-of-things/

Environmentally Sound • Socially Equitable
SUSTAINABILITY
Economically Feasible

Use free, equitable access to quality science exploration kits, craftsperson tools, and specialty items for diverse abilities and needs.

Practice essential societal skills with English, civic, multicultural, and geography literacy tools from our education section.

Practice transformative conflict resolution with board games (like *Co-opoly*), outdoor recreation supplies and yard games.

Use our tools to support native habitats, responsible cultivation, seed saving, soil health and growing literacy.

Borrow our kitchen tools to entertain, process, preserve, bake, or cook. Improve your local and plant-based food literacy.

Improve our community with tools for creation, repair, cleaning, safety, and maintenance projects.

Connect or recharge with our tools for health and wellness at different stages of life, including conversation, happiness, and well-being tools.

Use our tools to implement climate mitigation solutions such as support of local economies, plant-based diets, and no-till agriculture.

Try out our self-care cards (like *Fair Play*) or make use of our equal access to tools and equipment for any empowerment projects.

Improve your science & impact literacy with our Seascope or use our rope-maker to create alternatives to a large source of marine pollution.

Borrow instead of buying. Let us store and share the tools our community can use. Tell us what we should add to our collection.

Make use of instruments to identify and measure environmental pollution and contamination.

Check out our related programs and tutorials, or contact us to collaborate.

Utilize solar panels, generators, chargers, lights and our solar oven for extreme weather events, and energy monitors to improve your everyday.

Access rare items such as our musical instruments, including strings, keyboard and percussion instruments from around the world.

Use our science and technology kits, including: citizen science tools; repair, fix-it and tinkering supplies; and many other technological appliances.

Borrow free wifi hotspots and laptops, as well as tools that support traditional skills, digital fluency and financial literacy.

Source: https://curtislibrary.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/LOTandSDGsatCML-1.png

THE STATE OF "THINGS"

- Libraries tend to follow trends or receive items as part of a program, which means we see collections with some of the same items. Ex. Kill-a-Watt tool and library telescopes.

- LoTs is a broad term, including everything from puzzles to power washers. Collections vary widely in scope and size.

- Tool libraries are centered in larger metropolitan areas such as Berkley, CA and Chicago, IL.

- Do our Things meet patron needs?

THINK OUTSIDE THE TOOL SHED

- According to the EPA, 11.3 million tons of textiles were received by US landfills in 2018[1]. This is primarily clothing.

- Repair includes skills thought of as crafts— sewing and mending, upholstery repair, furniture refinishing

- As of 2021, the U.S. generates 6.9 million tons of e-waste each year[2]. Only 17.6% of that is recycled. E-waste is 2% of our annual waste stream but comprises 2/3 of the heavy metals in our landfills. These numbers are climbing.
  - We have tech help programs for software, what about hardware?

1) *Textiles: Material-Specific Data | US EPA*. (2023, November 22). US EPA. https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/textiles-material-specific-data
2) *Repair Saves Families Big*. (2023, April 24). US PIRG Education Fund. https://pirg.org/edfund/resources/repair-saves-families-big/

SHARE & REPAIR ROADMAP

1) Conduct a needs assessment

2) Develop a starting inventory and budget plan

3) Establish cataloging and circulation processes and rules

4) Promote and educate

5) Evaluate items and processes

ACQUISITION CONSIDERATIONS

WHY BORROW TOOLS?

- Expense
- Space
- Try Before You Buy

WHERE DO YOUR IDEAS COME FROM?

- Ask patrons, but remember that this collection will be especially useful to people outside the most common public library demographic (renters, new homeowners, populations with diverse transportation and financial means)

- Encourage staff to submit ideas

- Look at websites like The Family Handyman and Popular Mechanics. These sites will also have item reviews and recommendations.

- Get familiar with your collection of digital and print craft and maintenance materials

- Do you have programs in mind? Community groups to partner with?

- Hold a repair event and see what your coaches use most often

QUALITY

- Expected lifetime of item vs. cost of item—including processing and cataloging time

- Novelty items

- If you can't afford a high quality item, it might be better not to acquire it at all

- Donations

Cordless Drill & Impact Driver Ratings & Reviews - Consumer Reports. (n.d.). https://www.consumerreports.org/home-garden/cordless-drills-impact-drivers/cordless-drills/c28679/

COST

- Upfront cost
  - Purchase price
  - Staff time

- Maintenance

- Consumables

SPACE

- Next to cost, often cited as the biggest barrier to LoTs

- Start small (sewing kit vs. sewing machine)

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Single tools vs. sets

- Do you have everything someone needs for a project? Ex. paint roller but no drop-cloths or trays.

- Risk of injury (ex. knife sharpener)

- Can the library make use of these items?

SAMPLE ACQUISITION CRITERIA

- Minimal maintenance. Items that will be cleaned by the user and infrequent testing or servicing.

- No more than five minutes spent checking in. A quick visual count only.

- Cost parameters.

- Durability. Items that wear out quickly but are inexpensive may be worth it if they circulate infrequently. This is one area in which the evaluation process is especially important.

- Space constraints. A steam cleaner that doesn't circulate is using more resources than a tiny sewing kit that doesn't circulate.

Stud Finder **For hanging things on the wall and more.**	**$20-$35**
iFixIt Essential Electronics Toolkit **Provide links to iFixIt. Extremely useful for replacing a laptop or phone battery.**	$25, or buy the Pro kit ($75) for repair events
Extension Cord(s) **Consider offering to lend some of the library's extension cords.**	$15-$50
Cordless Drill (with or without attachments)	$50
No-touch Voltage Tester or Multimeter **These can also be used in STEM activities.**	$20-$40
Dryer Vent Cleaning Kit	$25
Levels **Size varies. For mounting things on a wall and many other uses.**	$35 for a Ryobi handheld laser level. $20-$100 for traditional levels. (These are sturdy, ask for donations.)
Adjustable Pliers (hardware)	$15-$20
Pliers (craft)	$7
Drop Cloths **For painting projects.**	$30 each, but should use donated sheets

TWENTY IDEAS FOR YOUR STARTER TOOL LIBRARY
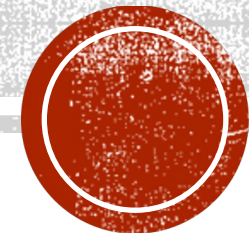
Sewing Machine **Pair with programming.**	**$100-$200**
Upholstery Repair Needles & Thread **Pair this with a book on furniture and linen repair.**	$2-$10
Sewing Kit with Pins and Spare Buttons	$10, buttons by donation
Screwdriver(s)	$20 for a multi-tip screwdriver
Collapsible Sawhorses x 2 **These don't take up much space and are useful for the library as well.**	$50 for 2
Mini-Iron **Great for hemming pants and for library crafts.**	$20
Drawstring Threader **For replacing drawstrings and elastics in clothing.**	$3
Darning Egg & Darning Needles **For mending sweaters and other knits. Pair with a repair event.**	$7 + $5
Staple Gun **Be clear that borrower supplies staples.**	$20-$35
Dremel Tool **Lots of different attachment options. This is a tool people may want to try out before buying their own.**	$60-$100
Total	$517-$892

TWENTY IDEAS FOR YOUR STARTER TOOL LIBRARY
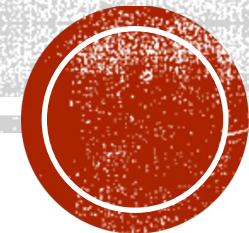
CATALOGING & PROCESSING

PROCESSING

- Barcodes and ownership labels – on the item or on a container?
  - How is the item handled during use?

- User manuals

- Contents sheets for check out/check-in

- Durable containers, visibility, plans for container and manuals replacement

CATALOGING

- When cataloging Things, Lauren Kelley at VT Dept. of Libraries recommends starting with ILL, Z39.50 and the LOC catalog to search for a similar item and modifying from there. Pay attention to contents and dimensions, especially for sets.

- If holding multiple similar items, create a record with multiple modified copies. Ex. Wrench broken into 1/2", 5/8", etc. If your library is part of a shared system, check standards first.

- Original Cataloging – Same considerations as other Non-Traditional Items
  - Make good use of the notes field.

- **Take photos!**

- Link like items together by call number, item type or other category for online browsing. Rather than just Library of Things, consider Tools, STEAM Kits, Puzzles, etc.

(Physical Object)

Stud finder (Hooksett) /

Average Rating ☆☆☆☆☆

Published	[Campbell, CA] : Zircon Corporation, [2018].
Format	Physical Object
Physical Desc	1 stud finder ($41.99) : + 1 instruction manual in hardshell case ($13.99).
Appears on list	HPL: Library of Things: Home & DIY
Status	On Shelf

Hooksett - Library of Things - Adult Room
LOT STUD FINDER
1 available

Add to List   SHARE ✉ 🐦 f 📌

Place Hold

Description

Available for request by Hooksett cardholders only.
The StudSensor™ A150 can locate the edges and center of studs and joists. Equipped with a Signal Strength Indicator, the A150 determine whether the object detected is closer or further from the surface for more accurate mapping of the wall.
The Low Battery Indicator alerts the user when the battery should be replaced. The SpotLite™ Pointer, ultra-bright LCD screen, tone indicate the location of the specified target. StudScan Mode locates the centre, edges, and direction of wood and metal st mm deep. DeepScan™ Mode doubles the scanning depth to locate the centre, edges, and direction of wood and metal studs u WireWarning™ Detection indicates the presence of live, unshielded AC electrical wiring up to 50 mm deep in. ACT™ (Auto Corre Technology) automatically recalibrates the StudSensor™ when needed. ACT™ also corrects common errors, such as when scan over a stud. Signal Strength Indicator helps to distinguish between shallow and deep targets. SpotLite® Pointer shines an arro light on the scanned surface to clearly indicate the location of the target. Translucent base and illuminated "V" marker groove more accurate marking of target location. Ergonomically designed grip allows a comfortable hold on the tool for any size hand angle.--

Copies

Location	Call Number	Status
Hooksett - Library of Things - Adult Room	LOT STUD FINDER	On Shelf

> More Like This

Subjects

LC Subjects	Carpentry -- Tools.
	Dwellings -- Maintenance and repair.
	Household electronics.
	Interior decoration.
	Measuring instruments.
	Tools.
Local Subjects	Library of Things.

More Details

Published	[Campbell, CA] : Zircon Corporation, [2018].
Language	|||
UPC	042186722970

Notes

General Note	Not intented for use by children.
General Note	Requires a 9V battery.

Stud Finder record (patron view) at Hooksett Library

Stud finder (Hooksett). (n.d.). Hooksett Library.
https://discover.hooksettlibrary.org/Record/1846788

ITEM INFORMATION TO INCLUDE

- User's manuals

- Links to manufacturer website(s)

- Other relevant tools or Things

- Related books and digital resources available through the library

- Photos

CIRCULATION

STORAGE & DISPLAY

- Make the collection visible—even if you can't display the items on the floor
  - Binder
  - Checkout cards

- Security

- Item integrity

- Seasonality
  - In July 2023, Washington County Library System had 69 holds on 4 pressure washers

- Get creative with exterior and wall spaces

HOLDS, BORROWING PERIODS, LATE FEES

- Many libraries have special circulation rules for their LoTs
  - Shorter loans
  - Late fees even at fine-free libraries
  - Items not checked in until inventoried/tested

- Waivers
  - Check with your trustees/town/governing body for liability information
  - Be sure to provide information on proper safe usage

- Remember: if items are going to be used together (ex. paint rollers and drop cloths) people will want to borrow them at the same time. Do you have a system in place?
  - MyTurn software

SAMPLE WAIVERS/AGREEMENTS

North Portland Tool Library
WAIVER and INDEMNIFICATION

I, _____ *(print name)*, state that I am capable and experienced in using the tools I am borrowing, and that I will use the tools I am borrowing in a proper manner.

I, _____ *(print name)*, do hereby for myself, on behalf of my successors and assigns, in consideration of being permitted to borrow tools, waive any and all claims against the North Portland Tool Library and the city of Portland for any injury or injuries of any nature that I may suffer or incur in the use of the tools that I am borrowing from the North Portland Tool Library.

I, _____ *(print name)*, hereby for myself, on behalf of my successors and assigns, in consideration of being permitted to borrow tools, agree to release and indemnify and hold harmless the North Portland Tool Library and the city of Portland, its officers, agents, and employees from any and all liability, loss, claims, and demands, actions or causes of action for the death or injury to any persons and for any property damage suffered or incurred by any person which arises or may arise or be occasioned in any way from the use of tools I am borrowing from the North Portland Tool Library.

I affirm that the above information is current, true and correct and may be subject to verification. I further state that I have read and fully understand the rules and regulations of the North Portland Tool Library and I understand that failure to comply with any of these rules may result in revocation of my borrowing privileges and/or legal action against me. I have read and signed a Waiver and Indemnification form, relinquishing any and all claims against The North Portland Tool Library and the city of Portland.

_____   _____
Signature   **Date of Agreement**

CURTIS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

About CML ⌄   Digital ⌄   Get Involved ⌄   Services ⌄   Programs For... ⌄   Research ⌄   Q

LIBRARY OF THINGS

Guidelines for Borrowing and Use

Objects lent out by the Library through its Library of Things program must be checked out from and returned to Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick, ME. A valid Curtis Memorial Library card in good standing is required to borrow a Thing. Borrowers of specialty items must be at least 18 years old. At this time only Curtis Memorial Library patrons can reserve a Thing.

Loan Periods and Fines

In most cases, a Thing may be borrowed for 3 week intervals and renewed up to 2 times unless another borrower is waiting. Chromebook/WiFi Hotspot kits may be borrowed for 7 days and renewed up to 2 times unless another borrower is waiting.

Proper Use and Liability

Use care when handling the Thing. The borrower is solely responsible for the Thing and will be billed for reasonable repair or replacement costs associated with damage or loss of Things and/or peripherals due to neglect or abuse. The Library has sole discretion in making these decisions.

Curtis Memorial Library is not responsible for any injury, loss, or damage that may occur from use of a Thing.

Left: Waiver from North Portland Tool Library. Must be signed before borrowing.
Right: Borrowing Guidelines shared on Curtis Memorial Library website. Site states "By checking out a Thing you agree to the Borrowing and Use Guidelines."

CHECKING IN

- Clear expectations for patrons when returning—put these in your borrowing agreement
- Clear expectations for staff/volunteers when checking in
  - Does the item need testing? Include this info. on contents sheet
- As simple as possible, eg. if it's dirty, don't accept it
- No returns in book drop or outside
- Have a process in place for patron drop off during busy periods

Upholstery kit:
https://amzn.to/4bElKtE
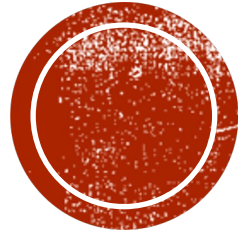
PROGRAMMING & PROMOTION

EDUCATE & PROMOTE

- Promotion is tied to success (Klein, 2006)

- Programming + resources = literacy

- Work *with* "YouTube University" rather than against it

- Promote with
  - Social media & newsletter
  - Local news
  - Community groups
  - In the library
  - Word of mouth
  - Get creative!

https://woolery.com/rosies-speedweve-style-mending-loom.html

REPAIR EVENTS

- Partner with other community groups
  - Sustainable Charlotte, Burlington's Old North End Repair Café, etc.

- Skill-specific programs
  - Visible mending
  - Lamps (commonly named as the most popular item at repair events)
  - Basic clothing repair and alterations (hemming, buttons, holes)
  - Leather conditioning
  - Cellphone and laptop battery replacement (BYOBattery)
 - Spring bicycle repair & tune-up day

SOURCING & FUNDING

DONATIONS

- Partner with local businesses
  - Add a label thanking the business
  - You aren't in competition with them. Patrons will likely need to buy consumables (paint, screws, thread, fabric) or want to purchase their own after trying it.

- Community groups

- Downsizers

- Monetary Donations
  - Direct ask
  - Friends of the Library, Rotary, others

GRANTS

- This collection falls under the sustainability umbrella—check out ARSL grants

- Sign up for Sustainable Libraries Initiative emails for updates on grant opportunities
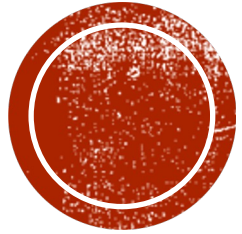
EVALUATION

EVERYONE'S FAVORITE PART - REPORTS

- Quantitative evaluation similar to "traditional collections"

- Did these items bring in new users?

- Did people express interest, even if they didn't borrow yet?

- Repeat the process:
  - Needs assessment
  - Review inventory and budget plan
  - Review circ processes and rules
  - Programming
  - Evaluation

RECOMMENDED READING

LIBRARIES OF THINGS/TOOL LIBRARIES

- Curtis Memorial Library (includes short borrowing agreement)
  - https://curtislibrary.com/library-of-things/

- Fletcher Free Library
  - https://www.fletcherfree.org/LOT

- South Burlington Public Library
  - https://southburlingtonlibrary.org/library-of-things/

- Washington County Cooperative Library Services
  - https://wccls.bibliocommons.com/v2/search?query=library+of+things+home+tools&searchType=title

- Chicago Tool Library
  - https://www.chicagotoollibrary.org/

- Berkeley Tool Library (beyond our reach, but great for ideas!)
  - https://www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org/locations/tool-lending-library

ARTICLES, BOOKS & OTHER RESOURCES

- 16 Tips to Crowdfund a Tool Library in Your Town: https://www.shareable.net/16-tips-to-crowdfund-a-tool-library-in-your-town/

- Chadwick, K. (n.d.) LibGuides: Library of Things. Massachusetts Library System. https://guides.masslibsystem.org/things

- Jones et al, 2023 – Jones, L., Nousir, A., Everrett, T., & Nabil, S. (2023). Libraries of Things: Understanding the Challenges of Sharing Tangible Collections and the Opportunities for HCI. *Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems.* https://doi.org/10.1145/3544548.3581094

- Joya, A. (2015). Tool Library Best Practices Report (N. Betts, Ed.). City of Austin, Texas.
  - Austin librarians sent me a copy of this and I'd be happy to share!

- Klein, A. (n.d.). Cake Pans and Tools and WiFi, Oh My! Nontraditional Materials and Why Libraries Lend Them [Slide show; Conference Presentation]. Massachusetts Library System. https://guides.masslibsystem.org/projectset16

- Robison, M., & Shedd, L. (2017). *Audio recorders to zucchini seeds: Building a Library of Things*. Libraries Unlimited.

- Stout, D. (2023, July 27). 11 tools every new homeowner needs. Family Handyman. https://www.familyhandyman.com/list/tools-every-new-homeowner-needs/

- Wackman, J., & Knight, E. (2020). *Repair Revolution: How Fixers Are Transforming Our Throwaway Culture*. New World Library.

TOOL LIBRARIES

- Ashville Tool Library: ashevilletoollibrary.myturn.com

- Northeast Portland Tool Library – https://www.neptl.org/

- West Philly Tool Library: https://westphillytools.org/

- Southeast Seattle Tool Library: setools.myturn.com/library/inventory/browse

- Sacramento Public Library of Things: saclibrary.myturn.com/library/inventory/browse?

- My Turn Lending Library Software: https://myturn.com

- Share Starter: sharestarter.org/tools

REPAIR EVENTS

- Fix-it Clinic: fixitclinic.blogspot.com

- The Restart Project: therestartproject.org

- Repair Café International: repaircafe.org

- iFixit: fixit.com/wiki/community_repair

- Culture of Repair: cultureofrepair.org

- Right to Repair Association: repair.org